

## THE MERCHANT'S HOUSE

Old Perithia, 49081 Corfu



### GUEST INFORMATION

#### A - Z

Dear Guests,

Welcome to the Merchant's House in Old Perithia, set in Corfu's oldest village and designated as 'A protected heritage site, in an area of outstanding natural beauty'.

Thank you for choosing to book with us and we look forward to seeing you whilst you're here!

Outside of Corfu town, these were the first and only hand-built traditional houses, in over 180 years, to be restored to their original design and with such exact detail, as a boutique bed & breakfast, now as a house for 6-8 guests. In this knowledge you are staying in one of the most unique places on the entire island. The property is considered as one of the finest restorations on the island. We have therefore received a Category 'A' rating from the Greek Tourism Body - EOT, an equivalent of 4 stars and the highest possible rating in its class.

We have put together the following **INFORMATION FOLDER** as an A-Z. Please take a few minutes to read through the pages and familiarise yourselves with a few house rules, and all you need to know to make the most of your time here in Old Perithia and Corfu.

The idea is that you can then dip in and out by glancing at the relevant pages when you need information, help or advice. If you want to spend more time looking through the pack, then it will throw up some interesting facts, ideas and suggestions to offer up some inspiration for every day of your stay.

Or, if you prefer, simply relax and enjoy the peace and quiet of Old Perithia, the fresh mountain air and the wonderful surroundings, walks, night skies and nature.

Whatever you choose to do, have a wonderful stay and please let us know if there's anything else you need. We are very happy to help with any questions you might have. **We endeavour to keep the INFO PACK as current as possible, so apologies for any errors or exclusions & let us know if we need to add or amend anything.**

Finally, we hope that each time you visit to Old Perithia you will continue to see more and more restorations and the return of local village life just as it was over half a century ago. When we started to revive the village approx. 12.5% of the original properties were still intact or in use, today, 10 years later, it's now over 35% and gently coming back to life.

Mark Hendriksen & Saskia Bosch + **Dina** [The house manager] **00 30 6945 542689** and **Olga** [our caretaker] at **The Merchant's House**

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"Old Perithia - A wonderful marriage between history, architecture and nature."

"Παλιά Περίθεια - Ένα Θαυμαστό Πάντρεμα Ιστορίας, Αρχιτεκτονικής και Φύσης."



## THE MERCHANT'S HOUSE

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### THE HISTORY OF THE MERCHANT'S HOUSE

Originally, these three traditional houses, built entirely by hand, sat side by side with a small path to the rear, a walled garden to the front and side and stone steps leading down to a cobbled road that winds its way down to the 'village square'. The houses date back to the early 1800s. Their restoration as 'The Merchant's House' began in December 2010.

Historic documents show that the village of Old Perithia dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, with 130 houses of Venetian architecture, surrounded by 8 Greek Orthodox churches.

Originally, the upstairs rooms of The Merchant's House were used as accommodation, with local crafts and trades in the rooms below. Until their abandonment, circa. 1950, they have been passed down through generations of local village families since the early 14<sup>th</sup> century and may at one time have been combined as the centre for the village council.

The first house (no.1) was last owned by a local doctor with a shop below (no. 4). The middle house (no. 2) by a carpenter, with a weaver below (no. 5) and the last house (no.3) by a local farmer who baked bread in his oven for the kafeneion below (no. 6). They all had a previous history of local trades, hence their collective name as trades under a single title, 'The Merchant's House.'

Beneath the doctor, in the first house, was once a 'village grocery' selling sugar, coffee, honey and dried fish. Here a traditional stone seat was built into the rear wall on the ground floor. Part of the seat has been carefully removed and sits in the garden at the front of the property, another part was used in the restorations. An old millstone was also uncovered during the restorations, most probably used for grinding wheat for bread making, as wheat was a prolific crop on the surrounding terraces. The millstone is now downstairs inside no. 5.

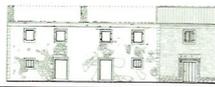
Next door, in the middle house beneath the local carpenter who lived upstairs, was a traditional 'weavers' making woollen clothes and rugs out of the wool from local sheep.

The third house in the row was a small but bustling 'kafeneion' (coffee house) and latterly a village shop. All three have hosted various traditional crafts and trades over the centuries, and have been recreated exactly as they were, using the same traditional methods and materials. Everything is built by hand, including the windows and doors, and every suite has traditional locally hand made furniture.

Since early 2011, the three houses have been painstakingly and lovingly restored, using local limestone and wood, recreating them in accordance with the regulations of the archeological department, exactly as they were originally constructed in the early 1800s. In addition, the foundations have been fully re-enforced, and with the special permission of the archaeological office, a discreet state of the art air conditioning system is fitted along with central heating. A bio-degradable eco tank system has been sunk deep into the rock and limestone resulting in fresh water irrigation for the gardens and protecting the local environment, LED lighting within 95% of the property adds to the eco-friendly aim of keeping the village as in tune with the surroundings as possible.

To recreate the Venetian influences on the island (circa. 14<sup>th</sup>C) and in Old Perithia, the suites are decorated with a mixture of classic Venetian colours, and exposed features with wooden beams and limestone. The furnishings include wrought iron beds and hand made furniture that recreate the Corfiot design of the time. Each suite has its own individual character as well as several ornaments and antiques from that period. Marrying centuries of tradition with a contemporary standard of comfort and decoration, we welcome you to "tradition, with a twist."

The Merchant's House offers guests a private escape to an unspoiled region of the island, set amidst the beautiful combination of countryside and mountains, with a view to both the island's highest point, and down to the azure blue Ionian sea.



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### INFORMATION A - Z

#### A

##### **ARRIVAL & WELCOME**

Check in is arranged with Mark & Saskia to enable time for a changeover and thorough clean prior to your arrival. On arrival, the transfer car (seats 8) will deliver you to the door, or please bring your car near to the house, to pick up your key, check in and unload. Please then use the car park further back from the village. Dina will be there to greet you, provide you with your keys, show you around and get you settled in.

The Information contained in this folder should answer most of your questions and help you with everything you'll need to make it a relaxing stay. When you've unpacked, there is space under the beds in the master bedroom for your luggage.

##### **ACCOMMODATION OVERVIEW**

Each of the houses is built by hand, using local limestone, exactly the way it was 2 centuries ago. Each suite has been individually restored and is decorated with a dash of Venetian influence to mirror their past, whilst providing a contemporary level of comfort.

The houses, each with its own private entrance and key, were traditionally quite small dwellings, but we have maximized the space and comfort. In 3 of the suites there's a master bedroom and sitting room with a comfortably sized bathroom with shower. The 4<sup>th</sup> is a twin room with bathroom. The accommodation consists of a double, or twin, bed in the main bedroom, and 1 or 2 sofas in the suite.

##### **Also included:**

Welcome pack to provide you with enough food and drinks to get you off to a good start until you can head to the local shops.  
Traditional decoration and local hand made furniture of the period  
Cocomat mattresses and a choice of pillows  
Fresh Neff Neff towels and bed linens, summer blankets and winter duvets  
Central heating, and Daikin \*air conditioning (see supplementary costs under Air Co.)  
Axminster carpets woven in the UK (suites 1,2 & 3 only)  
Nespresso Coffee, and tea making facilities, as well as glasses, cups and saucers  
Mini fridge  
Flat screen tv, and a radio|mp3 player  
A safe and luggage stand  
Free wi-fi and internet access\*\*  
Books, games and magazines  
Hairdryer and numerous electricity points  
Exterior Venetian paint recreated by Kourasanit, interiors Farrow & Ball.  
Private walled garden and seating area with traditional hand-built furniture.  
An iron and ironing board is available upon request.

The fabrics for the beds and cushions are supplied by FS Home Collections in The Netherlands, suppliers to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The traditional white Corfiot curtains are all hand-made locally.

Welcome toiletries include; Gilchrist & Soames 'BeeKind™' soap, shampoo and shower gel. Other complimentary items, in addition to those above, include; A small kettle, Nespresso coffee (AAA Sustainable Program), a selection of teas, milk and sugar.

\*Use of air conditioning is available at a small surcharge. \*\*If on a rare occasion the wi-fi is not working, then all of the tavernas also offer free internet access.

##### **Breakfast**

There's use of the main kitchen, and as you'll discover, a dumb waiter to transport meals between the main kitchen and breakfast room below. The breakfast room has a toaster, kettle, coffee machine and microwave for 'continental' breakfasts if you don't fancy much cooking or prefer a lazy morning and relaxing on the terrace.

##### **Children**

Having children ourselves, we thought we ought to carefully weigh up what would be best for the families with children all staying in Old Perithia. As the houses are traditional country homes and, by their nature, relatively small, we didn't want



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squeeze up to 10 members of a family in a rooms (like they did in the village many centuries ago!) We can organize 1 or 2 cots of required but please let us know ahead of your stay or when booking.

If you have children speak to Mark or Saskia and we can best advise on how to make everyone comfortable, often parents take a suite and use another for the children but we'll figure that out with you before your stay. For babies we have one or two cots that can be set up in rooms, again just ask.

Old Perithia is not, by nature of its age, location and archaeological protection, possibly not be the best place for babies and/or very small children but as long as you're aware we're happy to accommodate the majority of requests.

### **AIR CONDITIONING**

For the first time in the villages history, on approval of the archaeological department, we were permitted to install air conditioning, but subject to 2 conditions; it should be hidden from the outside, and be the quietest system available. Daikin air conditioning is now fitted in all suites, in both the master bedroom and the second 'sitting' room. With such thick walls the suites tend to stay pretty cool but we can offer airco as an option should you wish to have access during your stay. Either an upfront charge for the duration of your stay at €5 per day per suite (for example €35 for 7 nights for ea. suite that needs it). Although we should advise, except peak summer times, many guests prefer to have it to hand, and then use our 'honesty' option i.e. let us know the days you use it and we'll only charge for those you do.

> To avoid freezing the pipes and subsequent water leaks on our walls, if using the airco for longer than 1 or 2 hours please don't put the temperature below 20 degrees (i.e. 19-16.)  
> Also, the airco operates even when you remove the electric key, so please remember to turn it off when you go out for a long time.

### **AIRPORT**

The recently improved Ioannis Kapodistrias International Airport is named after Ioannis Kapodistrias, distinguished Corfiot European diplomat and first Governor of Greece. Located approximately 3 kilometres south of Corfu town, it gets very busy during the summer season, between May and October. In winter flights to Corfu generally go via Athens.

It takes approximately 10 minutes to get into Corfu's town centre and approximately 1-1½ hours to drive to Old Perithia along the coastal road (traffic permitting.) A taxi ride into Corfu town costs approx. €10-15, and an 8-seater luxury transfer via Dina to Old Perithia is €150-160 excl. tip. Hire cars can be organized by Dina to be there for you the day you arrive, or morning after as you prefer, then left in the village when you leave. The 8-seater can then seamlessly transfer you back to the airport or Corfu town.

Please allow up to 2 hours to get back to the airport on departure, as the traffic can be somewhat unpredictable on the narrow coastal roads.

### **ALARM CLOCK | RADIO**

The bedrooms have a digital radio | mp3 & alarm that's available should you need it. Please consider other guests and keep the volume down between 11.00pm and 8.30am.

### **ATTRACTIONS, MUSEUMS & GALLERIES**

We can offer suggestions on the island's best places to visit including, Museums, Galleries and Attractions and we provide guides in the rooms. Most attractions can be found in and around Corfu town, and a few others are dotted around the rest of the island. For help or advice about sightseeing just ask.

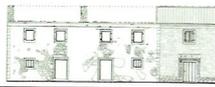
### **B**

#### **BABIES**

For babies we have one or two cots that can be set up in rooms, again just ask ahead of your stay pr when booking.

#### **BANKS**

There are a number of banks on the island. The closest banks to Old Perithia are in Kassiopi and Acharavi. Most banks have an ATM outside where you can withdraw cash. Bank opening hours are normally 8am-2pm Monday-Thursday, and 8am-1.30pm Friday.



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### **BARS**

Each of the tavernas in the village serves food and drink throughout the day. At busy times (i.e. lunch and dinner) it may not always be possible to find space for just a drink but, whenever possible they'll always be accommodating.

### **BATS**

When it gets too dark for the daytime birds, their place is sometimes taken by a few tiny Pipistrelle bats that flit around catching insects (very helpful!) Those with good hearing will hear their high-pitched call or the clicking of their sonar. The Greek for Bats is 'Nichterida.'

### **BEACHES**

There are a wonderful variety of beaches in easy reach of Old Perithia, from long sandy beaches with gentle slopes to the sea, to stony beaches and those that are slightly more off the beaten track. Here we focus on those nearest to Old Perithia.

Many beautiful beaches are within 20-30 minutes drive. The closest beach is just 15 minutes drive away. Everyone has their own favourite. Most have 'Blue Flag' status for cleanliness and safety, and crystal clear azure blue waters. Some beaches have extra facilities including showers and toilets.

We recommend you take swimming shoes with you, as many beaches are quite pebbly and although there aren't many spiky sea creatures, you may feel happier with them on to protect you, and you'll probably find it easier to walk on shore with them on.

Here's a selection (plus a brief description) [see Things to Do on the website for updates & a more comprehensive run through of them all.](#):

**Agios Spyridon Beach** [closest beach, with an easy walk through a protected nature area, Durrell favourite]

#### **North East**

**Aproas & Kalamaki Beaches** [long sandy beaches, shallow water]

**Siki Beach** [v. small cove but if not busy...+ taverna]

**Kassiopi** [Beaches, Coastal Walk, Old Fort, Bars & Caf  s]

**Avlaki Beach** [Avlaki Taverna]

**Agios Stefanos** [Shops, Taverna (Kochili tavern or Eucalyptus) & Giannis Boat Hire]

**Kerasia** [Beach & Taverna] passing Rothschild property

**Kouloura**

**Kalami**

**Barbati**

#### **North West**

**Afionas & Porto Timoni** [+ Angelokastro]

#### **South**

**Korission & Halikounas**

**By Car:** Leaving Old Perithia you travel back down the main road, passing Loutsas and then through New Perithia (Post Office & Post Box if you need one - opp. Harry's Taverna on the corner.) Best to check what's open April & October/November times.

**Ice Dreams** [landmark for the turn to and from the road to Old Perithia]

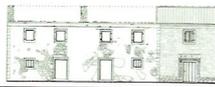
You'll soon arrive back at the main coastal road (Ice Dreams homemade ice creams are straight ahead of you\* - tempted?!:)) \*Spingos who created the company was a trained lawyer, who 'discovered' Italian ice-cream and then set up his own homemade ice-cream shop.

### **Agios Spyridon**

[The closest beach, left and immediately right when you reach the coats road]

To get to Agios Spyridon Beach, simply turn left, then almost immediately (50-100m) you'll see a sign to the right, and that road takes you to Agios Spyridon beach. To the right there's a crazy golf & karting track near Pyramid taverna, but to the left there's the beach, a small church and you can walk along the beach across an old wooden bridge and through a small nature reserve towards Acharavi. It's a pretty walk, but you'll probably want to turn back rather than go onto Acharavi. Also, beware of mosquitos later in the day as the sun goes down!

All other beaches >>> You now need to turn right on the main coastal road towards



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### Kassiopi & Corfu!

For Kassiopi, Avlaki, Agios Srefanos, Kerasia or onto Kouloura and Barbati – as follows:

#### Aproas & Kalamaki Beaches

Other local beaches are the long sandy beaches of Kalamaki & Aproas. You'll see various turns down to these beaches as you drive along the coastal road towards Kassiopi. The beach has shallow water out to about 30-40 metres and due to their size often not too crowded relative to the times of year, so feels spacious. A few tavernas but no stand out place to eat.

#### Siki Beach (Syki)

A small cove which is delightful if not busy + it has a good tavern 'Syki Taverna' on the other side of the road. We can book sunbeds for you just in case it's a busy day... and they have sunbeds and sometimes serve drinks & snacks on the beach too.

Stay on the coastal road, and after about 10-15 minutes you will see Kassiopi in the distance, look to the left to find Imerolia Fish Taverna, a minute or two later you'll be passing Kassiopi.

To drive into the village & harbour you have to double back just past Kassiopi, but it's well signposted.

On the Main Coastal Road, look for the turn back (a kind of u-turn) to Kassiopi if you want to go there!

### Kassiopi

Kassiopi is quite a lively village harbour, you can visit the old fort which is located on a path to the left just before the main harbour. There are bars and places to eat, ATM's + a number of shops. There's Limani Bar, which looks over the harbor. Restaurants include Uncle Simos (ask for Lena) Tabernaki or Petrino,. The Grill & Chill souvlaki bar is good for a simple inexpensive lunch (Giros) ...and The Old School/Three Brothers is also a good local taverna if you want something more substantial and we go there often (ask for Fondos or Varvara.)

From the centre there's an attractive coastal walk, passing by one or two beautiful beaches, Bateria is our favourite, and places where you can bathe on the rocks (can be a bit busy in high season.) The walk brings you back to the main road again and you then walk back through the village to the centre (or wherever you parked your car.)

If you are heading passed Kassiopi then soon after the turning you'll see Nikos Supermarket on your left, turn left immediately here. You are now on a winding road that after a few minutes will take you passed a boat yard and on towards Avlaki beach.

#### Avlaki Beach (Erimitis Beach)

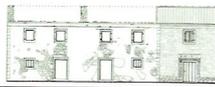
Avlaki Beach is a long windy beach, it has 2 tavernas the first is called Avlaki Taverna & second Cavo Barbaro (this is usually better.) As you drive along Avlaki beach the road then turns to the right through a forested area, and winds up to a T-junction.

At the T-junction! At the T-junction you turn left towards Agios Stefanos & Kerasia, (if you turn right you eventually end up back on the main coastal road.) You will wind down towards Agios Stefanos (beautiful views) and arrive in the main village.

### Agios Stefanos

Agios Stefanos (Kensington-on-Sea) has a number of tavernas, bars and a few shops, including gift shops and supermarkets. This is also where to pick up Giannis Boats (at the far end of the village.) We'd suggest Kochili taverna far end towards Kerasia near Giannis Boats, as for the other tavernas maybe try Eucalyptus with the side view or choose from the row of tavernas that beckon you in, but don't feel pressured, !

**Boat Hire** (we can book it for you with Giannis Boats): We recommend that you head out and turn left to 'look around' Kassiopi... then turn back past Agios Stefanos and continue along the coast, but no farther than Nissaki. Tavernas en route include Kouloura Bay, Agni Bay for Nikolas or Toulas (Toulas is the most expensive and it's advisable that we/you book a table.) You can drop anchor between Agni & Nissaki, where you see a small chapel (Prosperos Cell) built into the rock and some shallow caves, the water is an amazing blue and it's great to dive off the boat there.]



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You can also take day trips to either **Mathraki** or **Othoni** island's which are remote, unspoilt and you can grab a bite to eat at the taverna(s)... ask us for details.

To get to **Kerasia Beach**, you need to keep driving through **Agios Stefanos** and following the small road you eventually come down a very steep hill to **Kerasia Beach**, with the main taverna in front of you (owned by **Petros**.)

### **Kerasia (Cherry) Beach**

This is one of our favourite beaches, there's a small jetty. Do remember to book a table at the taverna when you arrive at the beach and if you're staying for lunch, so you can hopefully get a table by the sea.

Travelling along the coast and onto **Kouloura**, **Kalami**, **Agni**, **Kaminaki**, **Nissaki** & **Barbati**... about 40-45 minutes drive from Old Perithia

Of the above beaches, **Barbati** is perhaps the best beach. **Kalami** (famous for **Gerald & Lawrence Durrell's 'White House'**) & **Agni** (**Nikolas**, more local, or **Toula's**, the latter is the more expensive and very well known for their food.) are also quite nice (both are good for a lunch stop if taking a boat hire) then onto **Nissaki** for diving and **Barbati** (see below.)

### **Kouloura Bay**

This is a small beach and has an attractive small harbour and good tavern (check prices if ordering fish as they can sometimes surprise you) - it's very pretty there and nice to stroll down to the sea.

### **Kalami**

Famous for **The White House** where the property was to **Lawrence and Nancy Durrell** in 1935, it now has a taverna downstairs & apartments upstairs, perhaps choose the **White House** taverna, it has a good reputation and is reasonably priced, and the area itself is attractive when not too busy.

### **Barbati Beach**

If we suggested **Bahia Mare Beach & Taverna**, then you need to have stayed on the main coastal road, then it's a left turn at the small white church as you arrive in **Barbati**, let us know and we'll book sunbeds for you as it's very popular there! **Piedra del Mar** is also a good taverna|bar and attracts a slightly younger crowd.

### **North West of the Island.**

Turn left at the coastal road towards **Acharavi** | **Roda** | **Sidari**...]

Should you want to head to the north west of the island, we recommend **Afionas** which has a beautiful footpath/walk down to the sea **Porto Timoni** (and a small hidden chapel on the way) and wonderful views. Best to park and walk from **Anemos Taverna**, and do grab a drink or eat there too, its wonderful location. In the evening go via **Cape Drastis** (sunsets!) but we'd also recommend a trip to **Angelokastro (The Castle of Angels)** which was another of the substantial fortifications on the island dating back to the Byzantine period, and it's relatively near **Paleokastritsa**, both easily accessible from **Afionas**.

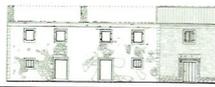
### **BEES**

There's been much talk about bees lately, but thankfully there is no bee crisis in Old Perithia, where the honeybees provide the most natural honey imaginable.

There are two sets of beehives in the village one at the top (but the family don't open it up to the public) and one at the farther side run by **Vasilis** - you may have seen him if you caught our **ITV** appearances in the UK with **Julia Bradbury**. You can buy honey from **Vasilis** and even sit and chat whilst the bees hum and buzz as they go about their work.

Although these bees are generally harmless (unless feeling threatened) follow **Vasilis** advice. Here are some other bees to look out for (below), just so you're aware and prepared - not scared!

There's the **Carpenter Bee**, a rather large heavy looking black bee. The wings give off a violet and blue hue. It is often seen (and heard) bumbling here there and everywhere and can cause alarm due to its size, although it is a placid creature and rarely harms humans. The name is derived from its habit of burrowing in wood in order to nest.



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Then there's the Bee-fly. This early season flying insect is not a Bee at all, but a fly. Its legs are much longer than a Bee's, it only has one set of wings and in flight it's much faster. The Bee-fly also has the unusual habit of hovering and anchoring itself with its feet as it sips nectar from flowers. Good thing is they don't bite or sting despite the dangerous-looking needle beak.

### **BEEKIND™** Toiletries 'Feeling Good & Doing Good.'

Along with the recyclable packaging and skin-friendly formulas, the Merchant's House by using Gilchrist & Soames, is supporting honeybee and sustainable pollination research at the University of California at Davis Entomology Department by donating a portion of the proceeds from the sales of the BeeKind™ Collection to the University's Honey Bee Research Program.

### **BEDS – A BRIEF HISTORY**

We thought you may like to hear the history behind them and why, In keeping with the tradition of the village, we chose the design of the bedrooms, provide Cocomat mattresses, and fabrics from the supplier to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Countrymen and their homes, in the late 18th century.

"Cottages, whilst they present a fair exterior, are particularly filthy within; having usually the bare ground for flooring, with a bed and large box for furniture. One circumstance, however, attracts the attention of strangers, and that is the size and the beauty of their beds. This arises from them not being seizable for debt: much money and care is therefore, usually spent upon the adornment of the bed: and the marriage wreath and patron saint are placed over it." Extract from 'The History of the island of Corfu' by H. Jervis-White Jervis published in 1852.

### **BIRDS | BIRDWATCHING**

From the hedgerows, songbirds sing to the mountains and the fields. Old Perithia, Pantokrator and the coastal lagoons by the sea are all close by, and popular locations for keen ornithologists. The bird life around Old Perithia is both interesting and varied. Many birds have been spotted here including:

Owls, Cuckoo's, Alpine Swifts, Black-eared Wheatears, Blue Rock Thrushes, Sub Alpine Warblers, Hoopoes, Booted Eagles, Buzzards, Golden Eagles, Black headed and Cirl-Buntings, Rock Partridges and many, many varieties of common birds. To the south of Corfu flamingoes are one of the species that arrive in swathes and are worth seeing if your stay coincides with their arrival.

### **BITES & BUGS**

First the good news, Old Perithia, at an altitude of 420-480metres above sea level, is not so popular with mosquitoes (we've never had one book a room). No seriously, there are not as many up here, but nevertheless be prepared and use an anti-mosquito spray in the evenings ( btw 'Odomos' is one of the best anti- mosquito creams we've found), If you are walking or eating out from around 7 -10pm best keep an eye out. We have special netted windows to keep mosquitoes out of the rooms but they, and other bugs, will get inside if you leave the nets, windows or doors open – it's easier to keep them out than get them out ;)

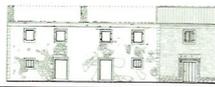
Otherwise, there are all sorts of nature's creatures out and about. The majority won't bother you but if you plan to stray off the paths, amidst the shrubs, wild flowers and over rocks, we advise to wear long trousers, socks and boots or good walking shoes.

In the unlikely event that you do get a nasty bite or sting and are concerned, then contact Dina or ask at any of the tavernas. Worse case scenario, the doctors are 25 minutes away in either Acharavi or Roda and know just what to do.

### **BOAT HIRE**

If you would like a great day out, we suggest hiring a small boat and setting off around the edge of the coast. You can stop along the way to swim in the pretty coves, or moor at the various tavernas along the way. We don't profess to know all the boat hire companies, but we suggest Giannis at Giannis Boats (opposite Delphini Crafts Shop) in the pretty bay of Agios Stefanos. They have always looked after us extremely well. If you want one closer to home head to Agios Spyridon Beach and pick up one of their larger boats there.

You can telephone Giannis +30 206 308 1532 and ask for him personally, or mention 'The Merchant's House, Old Perithia' Mark & Saskia so he knows we referred you and can ensure you are well looked after. It's best to book in advance and always call to check the weather on the day of your booking, so you're sure to get out on that day. If you



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look back at the 'BEACHES' section, you can stop at any of these bays along the way. They all have jetties and most have very good tavernas to try out.

### **BOOKS**

There are books and magazines in the rooms and we endeavour to offer a small selection that cover a broad range of interests. Please leave the books, tabletop hardback books, guides and magazines in the rooms for future guests.

You each get a complimentary copy per suite, but we are happy to offer you extra copies of 'The Old Perithia' guide and walking tour, which is written and published by Mark. It is available at €10.00. Please ask Mark or Saskia, or simply pick one up from Dina at North Corfu Travel. There are a number of local bookshops, and places to pick up daily newspapers or magazines in nearby Acharavi or Kassiopi.

### **BOOKINGS**

Bookings can be made in person by phone or by email (via our website). We prefer to handle reservations personally and get to know our guests beforehand, so we choose not to use a computerized booking system.

### **BREAKFAST**

Breakfast can be taken outside on the terrace, in the breakfast room in garden suite 4 or in the main kitchen, although the main kitchen seats a maximum of 6. The breakfast room & terrace seat 8. We request that you cook meals in the main kitchen and use the 'dumb waiter' to transport things up and down. However, the breakfast room enables you to enjoy a more continental style breakfast or light snacks. If it rains or you're getting 'bugged' the breakfast room offers a safe refuge and lovely atmosphere where you can all gather, eat, play games, watch dvd's etc.

### **BUILDINGS | RUINS | OLD PERITHIA**

Up until 2010, approximately 15% of the 130 houses in old Perithia had been restored, in use, or restorations are underway. Today it's over 35% +. Those remaining are in various states of disrepair and some of them in desperate need of restoration. You can walk inside and around most of the houses, though we must stress that entering any of these old buildings carries a risk.

Please exercise extreme caution at all times and do not walk on any old floors or under any sunken roofs. In Greece there is no compensation for injury if you have an accident close to, or inside, any of these old buildings.

### **BULLS | GOATS | SHEEP | CHICKENS**

There are a number of animals to be seen in and around Old Perithia. Livestock such as goats, sheep, chickens and donkeys and even some wild bulls! The Mountains used to be covered with literally thousands of sheep, but now local shepherds come and go throughout the summer to take advantage of the lush grazing and perfect environment. Donkeys were used on 'Aloni', a circular stone floor to grind the wheat for flour, two or three of these ancient Alonis can still be seen on the terraces along the old paths to Krinias.

### **BUTTERFLIES**

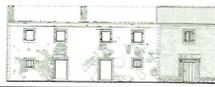
Throughout the spring and summer months Old Perithia is a corridor for dozens of dazzling butterflies, seen both in and around the village. Over 80 varieties have been recorded on Corfu, and here are just a few to look out for in Old Perithia:

The Scarce Swallowtail, Comma, Silver-Washed Fritillary, Southern Small White, Hedge Brown, Brimstone, Clouded Yellow, Red Admiral, The Common Blue and Common Swallowtail.

### **BUYING A HOUSE IN OLD PERITHIA**

If, as we were, you are interested in buying and restoring a house in Old Perithia, we have heaps of experience. We would be happy to point you in the right direction, and put you in contact with people who can give advice on various matters, avoiding any unpleasant surprises or complications that can occur when purchasing a property in Greece.

These well-respected professionals can cover every aspect of purchasing; from the archaeological dept. to the right architect, builders, lawyers, licenses required, and local accountants to cover every detail with absolute clarity and assurance.



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C

### **CANCELLATIONS**

If you've booked then a deposit of 25% is required to confirm the reservation. You can cancel up to 28 days prior to your stay and receive a full refund less a €100 administration fee. The balance of payment is due before or at the 28 days before you are due to check-in, once the balance is paid it is non-refundable unless by exception and agreement of the owners.

### **CAR HIRE**

It is essential to have a car to travel back and forth to Old Perithia, and it's the best way to get around the rest of the island. If you haven't already booked with a familiar rental company. **North Corfu Travel are the local company we use and we are happy to book your car hire and would strongly recommend the 8-seater luxury transfer from the airport at just €150-160 between 8 guests.** If you want an option or are heading somewhere else before staying with us, we also use Sunrise Car Rental, a local firm to the airport, who offer a good selection of cars at a reasonable cost per day, and are also very helpful.

If not, other international companies such as Avis and Hertz are based at the airport and will provide you with full details of their car hire terms and tariffs.

You will need a passport and valid international driving license, and it's advisable to book in advance, particularly in high season between mid April to the end of October.

### **CHECKING IN**

Dina will need at least 7-days notice of your arrival time so please get in touch with her, Mark or Saskia to arrange your check-in time between 14:30 & 17:30. On the day of your arrival if you've not met Dina for the transfer from the airport, you'll meet her at the house and she'll will be there to greet you and provide you with your keys. If you hired your own cars then please use the car park further back from the village after dropping off your luggage.

We'll show you where everything is and get you settled in. The Information contained in this folder should answer most of your questions and help you with everything you'll need to make it a relaxing stay.

There is space under the beds for your luggage in the master bedroom, and in, or on, the wardrobes (not in front of the air conditioning units in no.'s 5 and 6 please, We are more than happy to help you with your luggage and will collect it from your car and deliver it to your room if preferred. There's a safe in the suites for your valuables.

**Please ensure you lock the door each time you leave. Although Old Perithia is a very safe environment it is important that everything is safely locked up when you're out.**

### **CHECKING OUT**

On the day you leave, we kindly request that you vacate your rooms by 11am and return the keys to us. We'll do a quick check of your rooms, then return your deposit. Allow 2hrs to get to the airport as the traffic can be somewhat unpredictable.

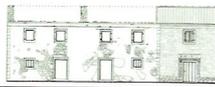
### **CHILDREN**

Having children ourselves, we thought we ought to carefully weigh up what would be best for families with children staying in Old Perithia. As the houses are traditional country homes and, by their nature relatively small, we certainly didn't want to squeeze up to 10 members of a family in 2 rooms (as they did in the village many centuries ago!) We have up to 2 cots if required but please advise when booking.

Old Perithia, in its current stage of renovation, restoration and remoteness, is not necessarily the best place for babies and small children but if you're happy so are we. Usually from 13-15yrs old + it's best to give them their own suite next door to you or below in the garden suites. From experience this seems to work best for everyone.

### **CHURCHES**

There are 8 churches surrounding the village of Old Perithia, and 1 above the village on the top of Mount Pantokrator (The Almighty), the highest point on the island. In Old



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Perithia 2 are in the process of being restored. Many of the churches are owned by families. The churches are only open on certain public holidays and for specific family occasions. Almost all of the village churches are open on the last Sunday of July during 'The Procession' in Old Perithia.

On the rest of the island you can visit open churches all year round, but please dress respectively ask if you wish to take photos.

### **CINEMA (check it's open!)**

The nearest cinema is in Corfu Town. It's called Orpheus and is located on the corner of Akadhimias and Aspioti, close to the Bella Venezia Hotel. The films are either Greek or in English with Greek subtitles. If you're interested please call them to find out what's showing and when. Tel. 00 30 (0) 26610 39768

There was once an open-air cinema in Corfu town called, 'Phoenix' and it's due to reopen again one day. If so, (weather permitting) between May and September as the Orpheus closes for the summer. It's located close to 'Orpheus' down the side street opposite. You can enjoy a movie under the night sky and take or buy your own drinks and snacks. Tel. 00 30 (0) 26610 37482

### **CLIMATE**

Corfu has a Mediterranean climate, with mild winters and temperate summers. The island gets a lot of rain in spring and autumn, so it's very green, much more so than other Greek islands. The rain tends to stop at the beginning of May and doesn't start again until October or November, so the visitor season is fairly free of rain, although occasionally, there may be sudden downpours or thunderstorms.

### **COMPUTER | LAPTOP**

If you have a computer with you then we provide a free wi-fi service in all of the rooms & you'll find USB adapters in the suites too. Please ask us for the current password 26630 98444. On the rare occasion, when it isn't working, a free internet service is available in the tavernas or in the main towns / villages.

### **CONTACT US**

To contact Dina, Mark or Saskia here are our telephone numbers during normal office hours:

|               |                     |  |
|---------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Dina</b>   | [The House Manager] | <b>00 30 6945 542689</b>                 |
| Mark & Saskia | [UK]                | 00 30 (0) 26630 98444 (April to October) |

### **CORFU TOWN**

There are various travel books and magazines in your room about interesting places to visit on the island. These will explain in more detail about what to see and where to go. Do ask us for details of what's on during your stay or look at our calendar of events on our website. Driving to town? It takes approximately 1 to 1½ hours to drive to, or from, Corfu town along the coast road.

### **CREDIT CARDS | CASHPOINTS [ATM]**

Most places accept Mastercard and Visa, as do the tavernas in Old Perithia. Cashpoint ATM's can be found in nearby Kassiopti and Acharavi, and at main villages along the coast as well as throughout Corfu town.

### **D**

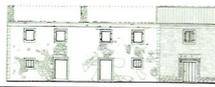
#### **DEPARTURE**

On the day of departure, we kindly request that you check out of your suite no later than 10:30am. Please return your keys to Dina when you check out, and allow her enough time to check you out – Ideally advise her of your departure time at least 2-3 days before you leave as she has other villas to check in & out too.

If you hired cars from Dina they can be left at her office or in the village & you can take the 8-seater back to the airport. If you're driving, allow up to 2 hours to get back to the airport when you leave, as the traffic can be somewhat unpredictable on the narrow coastal roads.

#### **DENTIST**

We've left a list of contacts in the main kitchen & breakfast room, or as Dina if preferred.



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### DEPOSITS

Other than your booking deposit of 25% we don't take any other deposit. However, we do charge €80 to cover loss of keys, or whatever costs are incurred for any accidental damage or breakages. In the unlikely event that something happens please let us know straight away. Each room is also checked daily, so we can advise you immediately if any damage has occurred, and can replace any breakages and avoid any accidents. This resolves matters quickly and without embarrassment, either to ourselves, or to our guests.

### DIALING CODE

The international dialing code for Greece is 00 30.

### DINNER

#### In Old Perithia

There are 4 tavernas open in Old Perithia for lunch and dinner. The adjacent taverna to the Merchant's House, is open for breakfast too. The tavernas serve food and drinks throughout the day and usually close around midnight. Each has its own personality and different menu. Even in winter they continue to open at weekends when they are filled with local Corfiots, who have enjoyed the food and atmosphere in Old Perithia for many, many years.

The prices in the village are noticeably less than in the tavernas along the coast or in the towns. Most of the ingredients are sourced locally, are more 'organic', and practically all the food is home made.

#### Beyond Old Perithia

The choice of tavernas providing good local food is abundant. For the best fish, head towards the coastal villages and bays, or into Corfu town. It's usually down to personal taste when choosing a good taverna in a nice location, but we are happy to offer some suggestions for anywhere from Old Perithia, to Corfu town and around the island in our [Things to Do](#) page on the website.

### DISABLED ACCESS

With its protected heritage status we are limited by what we can do inside and around the property. To which end although the suites on the lower floor all have wide doors and easy access, and are without stairs, suites may not be ideal for all levels of disability. Equally, Old Perithia, its roads, paths and the surrounding area, by their nature, present a tricky terrain and number of potential hazards for wheel chair users. We would not advise those with walking disabilities to risk these obstacles and a comfortable, trouble free stay.

### DISTANCES

The nearest grocery shop and post office is in New Perithia, just 10-15 minutes drive back down towards the coast, with larger ones in Kassiopi and Acharavi. Most villages can easily be reached by car, or (for the local ones) on foot. Corfu town (and the airport) is approximately 1 ½ hour's drive away.

- Local beaches are anywhere from 15-45 mins away by car.

### DIVERSITY

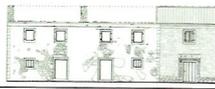
The wonderful location of the old village, its surrounding countryside and unpolluted sky, draw all manner of enthusiasts and experts alike. It's not only ideal for walking but also; photography, painting, history, geology, entomology, ornithology, herpetology, botany, ecology, apiology and astrology...

### DIVING

There are a number of diving schools on the island. The experienced amongst you will probably have done your homework already, but one of the closest to us, 'Dive Easy' has a dive base in Acharavi (approx. 20 minutes drive from Old Perithia) with CMAS and SSI certification. They dive around the island and can also arrange to pick you up at the B&B. Tel. 00 30 69450 13510 ask for Adonis - or ask Dina to book on your behalf.

### DOCTOR

Should you need a doctor, check with Dina but there is a Medicentre, located in Acharavi next door to the town hall (just 20 minutes by car) open 24hrs a day. **Should you require a private doctor we recommend (and use ourselves) Dr. Biagis Stamatis in Roda (0030 69325 21229)** next to The Tropicana taverna, Please mention that you are staying at The Merchants House in Old Perithia.



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### **DO NOT DISTURB**

The rooms are checked and tidied every day from around 11am, if you don't want to be disturbed at any time, please hang the red numbered fob on the small nail on the inside of your door, on the outside of the door. If you wish your room to be tidied, please display the green tab instead.

### **DRAGONFLIES**

If you take time to walk through some of the lush and unspoiled countryside in and around Old Perithia, you might spot some beautiful dragonflies. Over 40 varieties of dragonfly have been recorded on the island. They tend to appear out of nowhere, hover, then dart off momentarily, only to return again and hover in front of your eyes to show off their shimmering colours one more time.

### **DRIVING | + DIRECTIONS TO OLD PERITHIA FROM CORFU TOWN**

For instructions on how to get to Old Perithia from Corfu town please see the following [link on our website](#) & print it out if you need. You could also drive through the centre of the island but will need a SatNav.

With such narrow and windy roads, it's always best to drive with great care and keep to the right side of the road. Feel free to use your car horn at corners or where you can't see far ahead, or to flash your headlamps at night.

The Greeks have a percentage of good and bad drivers (we won't propose what percentages!) but, suffice to say, some are prone to driving in the middle of the road rather than on the righthand side of the road. A few will try to overtake, even when you may not expect it, so just give them some room and anticipate the improbable.

The island has many tight bends and some of the older roads and tracks have a number of potholes. Take extra care if it has been raining, because the roads can become very slippery from the combination of rain and oily residue from the surrounding olive trees (not dissimilar to the effect of black ice).

Apart from the above, it's delightful to drive through the island and to enjoy its beautiful and breathtaking views. There are a number of places where you can pull in and enjoy those views all along the coast.

To be on the safe side, it is advisable not to leave valuables in your car at any time.

### **PARKING IN THE VILLAGE**

To drop your luggage, stop by the first taverna (Ognistra) let Nikos the taverna owner know you're staying with us. Then after unloading, please park carefully and considerately in the car park back at the start of the main village, to help retain the natural view of the church, historic houses and restored taverna as you enter the village.

The local goatherd and taverna owners often need to have access to their taverna's and homes, so please don't block the roads and pathways. Please do not leave valuables in your car.

## **E**

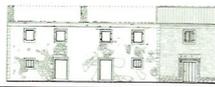
### **EATING | OUT & ABOUT**

Usually 4 tavernas are open in the village, each with their own unique style of cooking:

- Ognistra, in front of The Merchant's House, is owned by Nikos Chirdaris 00 30 26630 98050
- Gabriels Steps Behind The Merchant's House at the bottom of the stone garden steps, owned by Lola, Kostas & Giannis 00 30 69777 28691 or 00 30 26630 98129
- Old Perithia owned by Alkinoos, Alexia and family, oit verlooks the church of St. Spyridon 00 30 26630 98055
- Foros across the square from the 'Old Perithia' taverna, is owned by Thomas & Vasso 00 30 69431 00510

So, if you don't fancy driving anywhere, the village has 4 options, each a short walk away.

A number of other places to eat are within a short drive or taxi or 8-seater ride away. There's a wide range and selection as you go down to the coastal villages, with



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everything from fresh fish to fancy Italian, and usually in the most perfect settings. If you would like some advice check the [Things To Do](#) on our website.

If you are in Corfu town the choice is even greater, so again, please ask if you'd like some suggestions.

### **ECO TOURISM**

The definition of Ecotourism is: 'Responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment and improve the well-being of local people.' See 'Environment' below.

### **ELECTRICITY**

The voltage is 220v, this is the same as the rest of Greece. You'll need a European round two-pin plug adaptor if you don't have one fitted already. Power cuts can occur but rarely and if so usually after a storm. The electricity supply is generally restored quite quickly, but it's worth having a torch just in case. A rechargeable torch can be found in your room in case of emergency.

### **EMAIL**

If you have a computer with you then we provide a free wi-fi service in all of the rooms. Please ask us for the current password. (The tavernas in the village & post office in New Perithia offer a free internet service on the rare occasions ours isn't working (or it's a bit slow- mountain speed!))

### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Police              | 100   |
| Fire                | 199   |
| Ambulance           | 166   |
| Local Doctor        | 69326 45430 or 26630 63322 Dr. Yianis Giatrakos (in Acharavi) |
| Local Dentist       | 69369 83060 Spiros Peveratos (in Acharavi)                    |
| Hospital            | 26610 - 45811, 39428, 39403                                   |
| Roadside Assistance | 104   |
| Directory Enquiries | 11880   |

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Here at The Merchant's House we aim to constantly reassess and evolve our care for the environment. To which end we used, and reused, locally resourced materials to restore the houses and all of the furniture and fittings are hand made, and primarily sourced from within Greece.

We further promote environmental care by providing; energy smart card room entry systems, a low energy air conditioning system, eco-neutral toiletries with reduced wasteful packaging, an AQUAmax© fully certified wastewater treatment system, recycling (where possible) and locally sourced deliveries, using materials and products with a sustainable procurement policy from Corfu and the Greek mainland.

### **F**

#### **FACILITIES**

There is a master bedroom and suite in each house, along with a comfortably sized bathroom with walk-in shower. The accommodation consists of double, or twin, beds in the main bedroom, and 1 or 2 sofas in the suites.

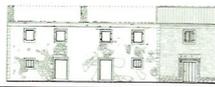
The houses, each with its own exterior door, were traditionally quite small country dwellings. We have maximized the space and comfort to include:

Cocomat mattresses, fresh towels and linens, traditional furnishings and decoration (and where possible a desk), axminster carpets (1,2 & 3) numerous electricity points, heating, and \*air conditioning in both rooms. mirrors, a safe, flat screen tv, radio with mp3|i-pod player, free wi-fi and internet access, hairdryer, books and magazines.

The fabrics for the beds and cushions are supplied by FS Home Collections in The Netherlands, suppliers to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The traditional white Corfiot curtains are all hand-made locally.

Toiletries include; Gilchrist & Soames 'BeeKind™' soap, shampoo and body wash. Other complimentary items include; A kettle, Nespresso coffee machine, glasses, cups and saucers etc., filtered water on tap in the main kitchen and a minibar/fridge for your own drinks and snacks.

Guests also have use of The Merchant's House private walled garden and seating area.



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Use of air conditioning is available at a small surcharge. An iron and ironing board is available upon request. There's a laundry service in Acharavi called Bubbles, behind Ilo-Ilo café. If you have maid service daily ask if you need washing done & they should be able to help for a small charge – but cannot accept liability for any colour runs, shrinkage, damage etc. so the laundry may be the best option.

### **FIRE**

Being in the middle of the countryside obviously means that you have to be extra cautious and aware. Fires, except for clearing the land for livestock or crops, are very rare and the local fire service is extremely efficient. However, please be considerate if disposing of 'flammable items' and let someone know if you happen to see smoke, or a fire that arouses your suspicions.

In the unlikely event of a fire in the rooms of The Merchant's House, please proceed to the side of the terrace by taverna Ognistra, or the safest visible location away from the fire, and wait there for assistance. The Fire Service Emergency number is 199. For the safety of our guests, no smoking, cooking or candles are permitted inside the suites. There are fire extinguishers in every suite that can be used in case of an emergency.

### **FIREFLIES**

The literal translation of the Greek for fireflies 'kolofoties' is 'fire bottoms'! These beautiful and mesmeric insects can be mainly seen around mid May to Mid June. They are a tiny miracle of nature, as well as an unforgettable sight when they perform their annual courtship display.

### **INJURY | FIRST AID**

In case of emergency, get in touch with Dina and she can seek advice over the telephone from the Doctor. If matters require more serious attention then the local doctor or pharmacy is approximately 20 minutes away.

### **FLIGHTS**

There are a number of airlines flying into Corfu during the summer from April to October. In the winter months there's usually a good connection via Athens.

### **FLOWERS**

The northern slopes are of a typical Mediterranean terrain with relatively mild winters. The humid, warm climate and the high degree of precipitation, combined with good soil conditions and geographic position of the island, make this just the right place for a variety of flora and fauna.

The countryside is at its best in April, May and June. Spring is when the mountains are sparkling with a rich tapestry of colour. Mid-February is blossom time for the first wild orchids. However, the area remains beautiful throughout the year with its many different shimmers and shades across the seasons.

Throughout the year you can find many beautiful and often rare flowers and herbs in Old Perithia. These include; wild lavender, various heathers, oleander, daisies, chamomile, geraniums, marigolds, poppies, hyacinths, dwarf cyclamen, sweet violets, blue anemones, wild tulips, irises, bluebells, many purple, yellow and wild crocuses, and in particular an extraordinary variety of orchids.

All of this, when encompassing the crystal blue sea in the distance below and wild mountains above, puts you in a place where the sights, sounds and the smells will almost certainly stimulate every one of your five, or possibly even six, senses.

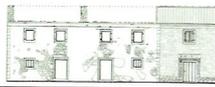
Winter rain then nourishes the entire mountainside and prepares it for its next annual display.

### **FOOD | SUPERMARKETS**

The nearest supermarket is in New Perithia, 15 minutes drive away back towards the coastal road. Larger supermarkets can be found in the nearby towns of Kassiopi and Acharavi.

### **FRIDGES**

There are two larger fridge freezers, one in the main kitchen the other in the breakfast room, as well as mini bar/fridges in each suite. **If you're sleeping in the twin room and the buzz keep you awake, please turn it down to '0' overnight & back up in the morning or simply use the fridges in the main kitchen or breakfast room during your stay.**



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### **FRUIT**

Historically, Old Perithia had a wealth of fruit trees and they continue to flourish to this day. This easily compensates for the lack of olive trees that don't grow so well at this altitude. At certain times of year, as you approach Old Perithia from the coastal road, you will see some lemon and orange trees along the way. In the village itself there are many almond, cherry, pear, quince, walnut and fig trees, as well as vines, some which are used for the production of local wine.

Nowadays the fruit trees provide a rich supply for the cooks in the tavernas, who in turn use them to create their old recipes for jams, desserts and inclusion in their many local dishes.

### **FUNGI**

Corfu has a number of strikingly colourful (and often deadly) fungi. In the autumn these provide an interesting subject for photographers, and food for the experts. But, our advice is not to touch them, and certainly not to eat them unless you're an absolute expert yourself, or you happen to know a wise and friendly fairy.

### **FUSEBOX**

The fusebox is located by your front door. In the unlikely event of a blown fuse please let Dina know and she can check it for you.

## **G**

### **GARDEN**

The Merchant's House has its own private walled garden with handmade wrought iron gates, tables and chairs where guests can relax, breathe the fresh mountain air and soak up the sunshine. It is gently lit at night and stone steps lead from the garden to a cobbled path down to Gabriel Steps taverna and onto the 'village square.' Please take extra care on the stone steps as they are very high to one side.

### **GECKOS**

Geckos can sometimes be seen on the walls and around lights at night, where they feed on moths and other insects attracted by the light. Their more natural habitat is in the stone walls and tree trunks. You can sometimes hear them 'chatting to each other' in a high pitched tone, but they usually scurry away if you go anywhere near them. Geckos are believed to bring good luck to a home.

There are quite a few lizards around the island too, but again they are rather harmless.

### **GILCHRIST & SOAMES**

When you stay with us you will be provided on arrival with a set of complimentary toiletries from the Gilchrist & Soames collection. We carefully selected The BeeKind™ Collection as it represents a sophisticated approach to nature-inspired bath and body products.

With a fresh lemon verbena fragrance, extracts of honey, and certified organic extracts of red clover, calendula, lemongrass and chamomile, BeeKind™ is as soothing as it is stylish.

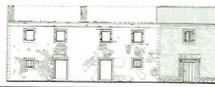
No Nasties - The BeeKind™ Collection features Gilchrist & Soames' Signature formulations, which contain natural conditioning agents from honey and the Brassica plant; and soybean and cottonseed oil, instead of petrochemicals. The BeeKind™ formulations are also free of any artificial colours or dyes.

Feel Good. Do Good - Along with the recyclable packaging and skin-friendly formulas, Gilchrist & Soames and The Merchant's House are supporting honeybee and sustainable pollination research at the University of California at Davis Entomology Department by donating a portion of the proceeds from the sales of the BeeKind™ Collection to the University's Honey Bee Research Program.

Bee Tempted - Should you wish to purchase any of The BeeKind™ products go to:  
<http://www.gilchristsoames.com>

### **GINGER BEER**

Ginger beer, or 'tsin tsin birra' to give it the proper Corfiot name, is served all over the island of Corfu. It is a legacy of the British protectorate, made in a traditional method



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by using natural ingredients. Grated ginger, lemon juice (lemon oil) water and sugar are combined to make a refreshing drink, perfect for a hot summer day. The Old Perithia Taverna make their own so do try it!

### **GOLF**

The 18 hole Corfu Golf Club in Ropa Valley (approximately 1 hours drive away) is a member of the European Golf Association and Hellenic Golf Federation. As the only one on the island, it's best to book in advance. For details of the green fees etc. tel. 0030 26610 94220 [www.e-city.gr/~corfugolfclub](http://www.e-city.gr/~corfugolfclub)

### **GUIDE TO OLD PERITHIA**

In 2010 Mark wrote and published a book about Old Perithia and its history, including a guided walk around the village. You get a complimentary copy with your stay or ask Dina for a copy.

### **H**

#### **HEATING | WINTER**

We don't have the heating on during the season, but if you are particularly cold ask Dina for instructions – there may be a small surcharge if you use it often. However, in winter the atmosphere can be damp, cold and a bit chilly so each room is fitted with a central heating system to provide an ideal temperature for you at no additional cost. The Merchant's Houses are all hand built following the traditional methods used throughout the centuries. The limestone walls are very substantial (50cm thick to be precise) so keeping cool and staying warm is in their design.

#### **HERBS | MEDICINE**

The Ancient Greeks had an extensive knowledge of herbs and were aware of many herbal remedies. Old Perithia and the island of Corfu have a great selection of herbal plants, and the Corfiots have used these to their benefit over many centuries, both in medicine and in cooking.

There are many wild herbs in Old Perithia such as wild mint, bay, wild celery and thyme. Oregano is gathered in June just as the flowers begin to blossom. The oregano is then cleaned, hung in the shade and, after a week or two the dried flower heads are crushed. The Greek for oregano is 'rigani' and it's used in many Greek dishes that you'll taste throughout your stay. Another favourite dish, especially in the countryside around Old Perithia, is 'Horta'.

From October to May a variety of edible plants are picked or cut and then placed in a basket to take back to the kitchen. These can include; Wild Mustard, Asparagus and Chicory, Neapolitan Garlic, Honeywort, Borage, Nettle and Dandelion. They are boiled, covered in olive oil and served as an accompaniment to many of the local dishes - this is 'Horta'. The spicy variety is called 'Tsigarelli', with added paprika, cayenne or chili pepper. Do try it!

#### **HIDEAWAY**

The village bustles with visitors during the day. But, at night, and from October through to May each year, it is very much quieter and, as one of the few residents of the village, is very much your own unique hideaway. It's an ideal retreat for those wanting some time out and/or a place to relax, think, work undisturbed, read, photograph, paint, take a long walk or romantic stroll, or simply to escape from the paparazzi...

#### **HONEYMOON**

What about choosing The Merchant's House for a perfect honeymoon retreat with best friends or family. Or, how about treating your partners to a second honeymoon in one of the romantic suites, overlooking the mountains and countryside. You can also book all the rooms together for family and friends, but please pre-book well in advance.

#### **HOUSEKEEPING**

The rooms are checked in the middle of your stay unless you requested full maid service with your booking\*. If you don't want to be disturbed at any time, please hang the red numbered fob located on a small nail on the inside of your door, on the outside of the door. If you wish your room to be tidied, please display the green tab instead.

\*Guests sheets and towels are changed in the middle of the week.



## **THE MERCHANT'S HOUSE**

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We endeavour to keep everything in perfect working order during your stay, but we can't always predict any minor random occurrences, such as blown lightbulbs, loose screws etc. - so please tell us if anything is missing or broken and it'll be fixed as soon as possible

### **I**

#### **ICE CREAM**

You picked the right place to stay if you like homemade ice cream. When you take the turning to Old Perithia from the coastal road you'll see one of the island's favourite ice cream parlours, called, 'Ice Dreams' it's easy to spot with a giant ice cream cone on its roof, and an owner, Thanos Spingos, who is truly passionate about making ice cream.

If you want to get there from the village it takes about 15 minutes and you'll see it straight ahead of you when you reach the main coastal road. Tel. 00 30 26630 98200

#### **INSECTS & CREATURES**

In this info pack, we endeavor to tell you about all of the local insects and creatures, most all of which are very beautiful and quite harmless. The idea isn't to worry you about the 'biters and stingers' but to advise and educate. We're not the greatest fans of 'all' creatures great and small either, and it often helps to know that some things that may look or sound scary, are actually rather innocent despite their not being blessed with the best looks or greatest of dress sense.

Look under the following titles in this information pack for more details about; Bats, Bees, Birds, Bites & Bugs, Bulls | Goats | Sheep | Chickens, Butterflies, Dragonflies, Fireflies, Geckos, Mosquitoes, Scorpions, Snakes and Tortoises.

#### **INTERNET | LAPTOP**

If you have a computer with you then we provide a free wi-fi service in all of the rooms. Please ask us for the current password. In the unlikely event that ours isn't working, (or has mountain slowdown) there's a free internet service in the village tavernas or post office in New Perithia.

#### **INSURANCE**

Please lock your front door and windows if you're going out. There is a built in safe in each suite, located inside the wardrobes. We advise that we cannot accept and responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged property and that they are left entirely at the owners risk.

#### **IRON & IRONING BOARD**

Available upon request, just ask Dina or Olga.

### **J**

#### **JOKES & HUMOUR**

Jokes and comedy are as much a part of the island's past, as its present. You may be familiar with some of the Greek tragedies, but did you know that the word comedy actually stems from the ancient Greek word 'komoidia' You will certainly discover a good sense of humour amongst the majority of the people of Corfu.

### **K**

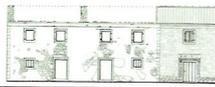
#### **KEYS**

The keys for each suite consist of a front door key, and a second 'eco-power' card. The eco-power card will enable you to use the lights, air conditioning and all other electrical items and sockets in the rooms. You also have a key to access the main kitchen & another for the breakfast room. When you leave the house and remove the card, the electricity will be switched off to save energy. The fridge will function at all times. Please note that it is not allowed to remove or separate the eco-power card or any of the keys. **Please take extra care to ensure they don't get lost – there's an €80 charge for all replacements.**

### **L**

#### **LANGUAGES**

Most of the Corfiots speak English but it's always nice to try and speak a little Greek. Corfu is quite a cosmopolitan island so you'll hear many languages around you, and there's usually someone who can help if you're stuck. A useful phrase to know is, 'Signomi, mi late Anglika?' – meaning, 'Excuse me, do you speak English?'



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### LAUNDRY

There is a simple drying line in each bathroom. **Hanging laundry outside is permitted but please consider the other people in the village and hang it as sympathetically out of sight as possible.** Also, an iron and ironing board are available upon request. The local laundry shop 'Bubbles' is in Acharavi located in an alleyway to the side of Ilo-Ilo Café on the right hand side just after the Pump House roundabout. It may not look too classy, but they can do the basics if you need somewhere during your stay.

### LOCAL HOLIDAYS

Jan 1<sup>st</sup> - New Year's day

Jan 6<sup>th</sup> - Epiphany

Mar 18<sup>th</sup> - Ash Monday

Mar 25<sup>th</sup> - Greek Independence Day

Easter - date varies each year includes Good Friday Easter Saturday & Easter Sunday.

May 1<sup>st</sup> - Labour Day (many people gather flowers on this day, for good luck).

May 21<sup>st</sup> - Ionian Day Procession

August 6<sup>th</sup> - Feast of the Transfiguration, Processions during the week before & after.

June 24<sup>th</sup> - Whit Monday (date varies)

July – (last Sunday) Procession in Old Perithia, for 'The Miracle of the Virgin Mary'

August 11<sup>th</sup> - St. Spyridon's Day – Procession

August 15<sup>th</sup> - Assumption

October 28<sup>th</sup> - Ochi (No) day

November (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday) St. Spyridon Procession

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> - Christmas

### LOO PAPER

Please ensure that toilet paper (cotton wool, sanitary items etc.) go in the bins provided and not in the loo. This avoids potential blockages in your bathrooms and, or damage to the eco waste system we have installed (for your convenience, so to speak!) This rule applies to all toilets throughout Corfu.

### LOSS OR DAMAGE [see [Terms & Conditions on our website](#)]

There is a safe in each suite and we also request that you lock your door and windows if you are going out. We advise that we cannot accept and responsibility for lost, stolen or damaged property and they are left entirely at the owners risk.

### LUGGAGE

There is space under the beds in the master bedroom for your luggage, and a safe in the fitted wardrobe in the master bedroom for your valuables. Please do not, under any circumstances, place your luggage on the wardrobes in front of the air conditioning units.

### LUNCH

If you are in the village do visit any of the tavernas for lunch (or dinner). Otherwise the beaches, towns and villages have a wide selection of places that are open each day and evening.

## M

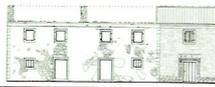
### MARK

Mark was born in England. Prior to the B&B he was a publisher in London. In 2010 he wrote and published 'The Guide to Old Perithia' available here, or at bookshops throughout Corfu. He was the publisher of leading visitor publications, including IN London – Paris – Germany - Italy – Spain - New York and also The Best of Britain, WHERE and The London Guide. More recently he worked with b3 in London, a specialist publisher for kids and teens. He & Saskia have 2 children, Christiaan and Gemma who are based in London.

Together with Saskia, Mark helped to restore The Merchant's House, which opened in September 2011.

### MASSAGE, SPA, SAUNA, TREATMENTS & AROMATHERAPY

We recommend [Ivi Spa in Acharavi](#), but Dina can arrange visits to the house if you prefer.



## **THE MERCHANT'S HOUSE**

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### **MOBILE PHONES**

Most mobile phone networks work well from the village. We also provide a free wi-fi service if you wish to Skype or email during your stay (or, as a back up, in New Perithia, at the Post Office).

If you are really stuck, we have a phone if you need to make a local call. There is also a landline in most tavernas and they may just charge a small amount for the time you spend to cover the charges.

### **MOUNT PANTOKRATOR**

At 906m (2,972 ft) it is the highest mountain on the island. From the summit you get an aerial view of Old Perithia and the whole of Corfu, as well as parts of Albania. On a clear day it's also possible to see Italy, around 130 km (80 miles) away.

To reach the top you can walk from the village (a 3-4 hour round trip, off the beaten track!), or there is access by road. It has some rather unorthodox communications towers at the top and a small café. If you wish to drive there, head back to Acharavi. The road is signposted, and is just opposite the Sconto supermarket. The first monastery was built there in 1347 with the help of the Perithians, but it was destroyed sometime around 1537. The current church on the site dates from around 1689 and is dedicated to the transfiguration of Christ.

### **MOSQUITOES**

Old Perithia, with its position in the mountains, has fewer mosquitoes than by the sea, and the bites carry no disease. Curiously, the locals seem to be immune to mosquito bites but they do seem to like visitors. Simple, effective precautions include: Keeping doors and windows closed (we have special netted windows in the rooms). Turn the lights off so as not to attract them.

### **MUSEUMS & GALLERIES**

There are guidebooks and magazines in the rooms about the best places to visit on Corfu, including Museums, Galleries and Attractions. The most attractions can be found in and around Corfu town, and a few others are dotted around the rest of the island. Near to Old Perithia, the local 'Folk' museum in Acharavi is quite good and entry is just a few euros. For help and advice on where to go or what to do, please ask us.

## **N**

### **NATURE TRAILS & WALKS**

Apart from the Old Perithia Guide, there are a number of books on walks and trails around the whole island. On the website we outline a few under [Things To Do](#), and provide you with a 'brief description sheet' for a few walks around Old Perithia. If you are planning to walk off the beaten track we strongly recommend boots and long trousers. Where you see plastic bottles hanging, this indicates not to pick or eat the fruits or 'horta' from there.

### **NIGHT SKY | NIGHTLIFE**

The night sky above Old Perithia probably has the least light pollution on the island. Stargazing is a perfect pastime, and we are happy to lend you a star constellation guide, to help identify the configurations. Nature presents a new show as darkness descends, the quietness shattered only by the occasional call or movement of nocturnal creatures. The other nightlife happens in the tavernas. Occasionally there will be some live music, and throughout the summer a variety of other special events take place in the village.

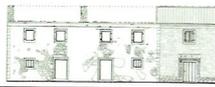
### **NOISE**

At night, in all of Corfu, you'll probably find nowhere quieter than Old Perithia. The only sound in the dead of night, is that of the surrounding nature and wildlife buzzing around beneath the Ionian skies. But this gentle symphony is part of the charm of staying here - far away from the sound of clubs, cars, late night bars and any other noise pollution.

The exceptional quietness at night means that some everyday sounds are more amplified, such as the creaking of floorboards, footsteps, and the gentle murmur of conversation. Please be considerate of other guests and walk & talk quietly late at night and early in the morning,

Old Perithia's charm draws many visitors to the village during the day, and the tavernas buzz with the sound of the relaxed diners who have come to enjoy a walk, the surroundings, or simply to savour the local mountain food.

The days start quite peacefully, and the tavernas eventually close by around midnight to begin their preparations for the next day. If you are an, 'early riser' or a 'late nighter', please consider the other guests elsewhere (few if any) when coming and going. We



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kindly request that you do not have the tv or radio too loud between the hours of 11pm and 8.30am and tread quietly around the suites, so everyone who wants a good night's sleep can get one.

### **NO SMOKING – HOUSE RULE**

There is a strict non-smoking policy in Greece and smoking indoors is a fineable offence by law. Please do not smoke in any of the rooms. A cost of €100 will be charged to clients to clean and remove the tobacco smell from the room and fabrics. At most restaurants and tavernas there are tables and places outside where you can sit and smoke if you wish to.

Please be aware of your surroundings and ensure all cigarettes and matches are fully extinguished or disposed of carefully! In consideration of all our guests, we advise that you will forfeit your deposit if you smoke, or cause damage through fire, or smoking, in any of the rooms.

### **OLD PERITHIA**

Mark wrote and published a book on Old Perithia, its history, stories, and a guided walk around the village highlights and architectural features. We are happy to offer you a copy of 'The Old Perithia' guide and walking tour free with your stay.

### **OWLS**

You will almost certainly hear the Scops Owl, and other species in Old Perithia, 'to wit and to woo' you during your stay. In Greek they are called 'Koukouvaiya',

### **P**

#### **PAINTERS PARADISE**

Old Perithia is a popular setting for artists of all levels. The old stone houses with their honey coloured roofs and the yellow, pink and white churches in the background blend to form a beautiful pallet. A painters' paradise set against the mountain scenery, cypress trees, wild flowers and herbs all gazing longingly at the cobalt sky and azure sea in the distance below.

#### **PARKING**

Please feel free to bring your car closer to the house to unload, but then please use the car park higher up towards the pink church of St. Iakovos, Persis, The archaeological department and municipality are planning various improvements to Old Perithia and have recently included a designated parking area at the top of the village.

The car park and new signage is designed to keep cars away from the old buildings and enable better pedestrian access for locals and visitors alike. It will also preserve the buildings and the view of the village on arrival. Please remember not to leave valuables in your car at any time.

#### **PETS**

We really rather like pets, dogs, cats and alike, but taking the environment and other wildlife around The Merchant's House into consideration, we do not permit them in the suites. If you're feeling pet sick, then you'll usually find a stray cat somewhere in the village, most are friendly as they're fed by the tavernas or Olga when she's checking the house.

#### **PHARMACY**

There are many pharmacies in the towns and villages. The nearest pharmacies to Old Perithia are in Acharavi. Usually open from 8.30am to 1.30pm and 6pm to 8.30pm on Mon - Friday, and 8.30am to 1.30pm Saturday, closed Sundays.

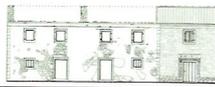
If an injury or bite requires more serious attention then the local doctor or pharmacy is approximately 15-20 minutes drive away.

#### **PHOTOCOPYING**

A photocopier and other office services, such as a fax machine, are available at either of the 2 bookshops in Acharavi, towards the middle of town (easy parking), or in Kassiopi at Korifó Books (a short walk). If you ask Dina she can help at her office.

#### **PILLOWS**

As you're up the mountain near to the sky we thought you may prefer to sleep with your 'head in the clouds' so we provide really cosy ecological pillows covered in crisp white linen. For those preferring something slightly firmer, or an additional pillow, alternative pillows can usually be found in the wardrobes.



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### PLUGS

European two-pin pin plugs are required. You can use an adapter as long as the voltage range matches that of Corfu. i.e.220–240v AC

### POST OFFICE | POST BOX

The nearest post office and post box is 10-15 minutes drive away in the corner Kafenion (Coffee shop|Bar|Post Office and wi-fi) in New Perithia, opposite Harry's taverna.

### POWER SUPPLY | POWER CUTS

Power cuts are rare, usually only occur after a storm, or occasionally they do a 'reset' and the power is normally resumed quite quickly. We run the power from our main utility room and keep you lit outside at night so you can see, but still get to sleep. There is a rechargeable torch in your room. Due to the potential fire hazard, no candles are permitted in the rooms.

### PUBLIC HOLIDAYS & NOTABLE PROCESSIONS

Jan 6<sup>th</sup> - Epiphany

Mar 18<sup>th</sup> - Ash Monday

Mar 25<sup>th</sup> - Greek Independence Day

Easter - Date varies each year and includes Good Friday Easter Saturday & Easter Sunday

May 1<sup>st</sup> - Labour Day

May 21<sup>st</sup> - Ionian Day Procession

August 6<sup>th</sup> - Feast of the Transfiguration, Processions during the week before & after

June 24<sup>th</sup> - Whit Monday (date varies)

July - (last Sunday) Procession in Old Perithia, for 'The Miracle of the Virgin Mary'

August 11<sup>th</sup> - St. Spyridon's Day - Procession

August 15<sup>th</sup> - Assumption

October 28<sup>th</sup> - Ochi (No) day

November (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday) St. Spyridon Procession

December 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> - Christmas and Jan 1<sup>st</sup> - New Year's day

### R

### RADIO |MP3 | I-POD PLAYER

Each suite has a digital radio and MP3|I-Pod Player with Alarm. If you are an 'early riser' or a 'late nighter', please consider your other guests when coming and going, and not have the volume on the tv or radio too loud between approximately 11pm and 8.30am, so everyone who wants a good night's sleep can get one.

### RECEPTION

Dina will greet you and provide you with all the information you need before showing you to your rooms. The tavernas usually open from 10.00am 'til around midnight. If you have any questions or need any help then do ask them or again, ask Dina.

### RELIGION

The religion in Corfu (and the rest of Greece) is Greek Orthodox. There are many churches in practically every village throughout the island. Most churches welcome visitors if they are suitably dressed - i.e. no shorts or skimpy tops etc.

### ROOM KEYS

The keys for each suite consist of a front door key, and a second 'eco-power' card. The eco-power card will enable you to use the lights, air conditioning and all other electrical items and sockets in the rooms. You also have a key to access the main kitchen & another for the breakfast room. When you leave the house and remove the card, the electricity will be switched off to save energy. The fridge will function at all times. Please note that it is not allowed to remove or separate the eco-power card or any of the keys. **Please take extra care to ensure they don't get lost - there's an €80 charge for all replacements.**

### RUBBISH

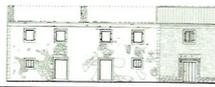
Apart from the 'no paper or other items in the toilet' rule, your general waste can be deposited in the bins we provide behind fence by the well in the garden. One is for recycling/recyclable items and the other general waste including bathroom bin bags. The maid will empty them when she visits.

### RULES OF THE HOUSE

No smoking, fires, cooking or candles inside the suites only in the main kitchen.

No toilet paper or other sanitary items to be put in the toilets.

A full House Rules list can be found on the welcome sheet in your room or on the website under [Terms & Conditions](#)



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### S

#### SAFE

Most suites have its own safes with instructions on setting your own personal code combination. Please also ensure you have comprehensive travel insurance as The Merchant's House cannot accept responsibility for any lost, damaged or stolen items during your stay. If the safe doesn't work check with Dina as it may be the batteries have lost power.

#### SAFETY

Many of the 130 houses in the village are in need of restoration. You can usually walk inside and around each one. However, we must stress that entering any old building carries a risk. Please exercise extreme caution at all times and do not walk on old floors or under any sunken roofs. In Greece there is no compensation for injury should you enter any of these old ruins and an accident occur.

#### SASKIA

Saskia was born in Holland and has worked in television and radio for many years as a Dutch voiceover and voice over director, working for tv channels such as the National Geographic Channel, History and Cartoon Network. Together with Mark, she has helped to restore The Merchant's House, which opened in September 2011. She speaks fluent English and Dutch and also some French, German and Greek and she is always happy to help with anything you need when booking your stay.

#### SCORPIONS

Scorpions can sometimes, but rarely, be found hiding beneath rocks or wooden logs. However, the Corfu scorpions are not as dangerous as one may be led to believe. Although their sting may be painful, to a healthy person it will not be fatal. However, do let us know if you get stung, or go to a doctor immediately if you are unduly concerned.

#### SECURITY

Corfu and more specifically Old Perithia is a very safe and secure environment with very low crime rates. However, your rooms are fitted with substantial door locks and there's a safe in each suite for your valuables. To be on the safe side, make sure that you close all your windows and front door when you go out, as there are many visitors to the village throughout the day.

Please ensure you have comprehensive travel insurance, as The Merchant's House cannot accept responsibility for any lost, damaged or stolen items during your stay.

#### SHEETS | PILLOWCASES | TOWELS

Sheets, pillowcases and towels are changed once a week depending on the length of your stay. Please do not take the room towels to the beach.

#### SHOPPING

Shops are usually open between 8am to 2pm, and then from 5pm to 8pm - Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. But, on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday they open from 8.30am to 2.30pm only. Supermarkets are usually open all day 8am to 8pm, every day except Sunday.

#### SIESTA

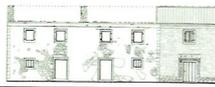
In Corfu many people have a siesta between 3.30pm and 5.30|6pm

#### SHOWER (and a warning!)

At The Merchant's House we have hot water on timer 4 times during the day/night which works well 99% of the time for our guests. If you find that's not enough let Dina know and she can adjust it. Beware if using the loo or sink at the same time as the shower, or the shower water may get extremely hot (scalding) as they both run off the mains! Please also consider the environment and other guests, and do not leave the shower or taps running unnecessarily.

#### SMOKING

By law smoking is prohibited in all public areas and hotel rooms throughout the island. Therefore, The Merchant's House is completely non-smoking. A cost of €100 will be charged to clean and remove the tobacco smell from the room and fabrics. There are tables and chairs outside in the garden and at on the terraces of the tavernas, where you can sit and smoke if you wish.



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Please be aware of your surroundings and ensure all cigarettes and matches are fully extinguished or disposed of carefully! In consideration of all of our guests, we advise that you will forfeit your deposit if you smoke, or cause damage through smoking or fire, in any of the rooms, so please do not smoke indoors!

### **SNAKES**

The dreaded subject that we feel is better discussed than ignored. Firstly, don't worry - snakes are usually more afraid of you than you of them. If you happen to see one, just back away and observe from a distance, and if it does notice you it won't attack unless provoked. The majority of snakes are harmless and only one or two have a nasty, but not life threatening, bite. The only poisonous snake on the island is the shy but venomous Nose-Horned Viper. As forewarned is forearmed, here's the description:

Usually found in rocky habitats, adult vipers can reach a length of 60 to 80cm. It gets its name from a fleshy horn on its snout, its colour is light slate-brown with a pronounced chain of darker lozenges down the length of its back. If you are walking in rocky terrain or through undergrowth do wear sensible clothes and boots or walking shoes and don't approach. The majority of people will not see a snake during their stay in Corfu. If you get bitten, call a doctor or go to the hospital immediately.

### **SOAP – HANDMADE IN CORFU**

Below, we describe and take you through the history of Patounis Savonierre, the last remaining traditional soapmaker on the island who still makes soap exactly the same way that they did over 150 years ago, Worth a visit to their factory & tour if in Corfu town!

### **SUN CREAM**

Don't forget to put sun cream on at all times during the day. It can feel deceptively cooler in the mountains but the sun will still be very hot. We also suggest you cover your head if you're planning to be in the sun for a long time or going on a walk. Generally, just be cautious and well prepared, and drink lots of water!

### **SWIMMING**

Take a look under the 'Beaches' section in [Things To Do](#) on the website for more details on where to swim. If you are staying in Corfu town and fancy an early morning, or evening, swim then there's a few swimming spots around town. If you have a car, for a quiet beach near to Corfu town head to Kontokali, approx. 6km on a corner heading north on the coastal road, just by Gouvia Marina.

### **SWIMMING POOL – NO SWIMMING POOL**

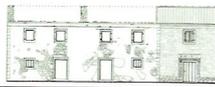
As a protected heritage site, and in accordance with the archaeological department of Corfu, swimming pools cannot be built within the village of Old Perithia. For swimmers, the good news is that many of the island's best beaches are within 15 - 30 minutes by car. Please refer to the 'Beaches' section of this information pack. Or, if you really prefer to swim in a pool then do ask and we'll suggest a few that are not too far away. There's also the 'Hydropolis' on the way to Acharavi, which is a popular local water park.

### **Patounis Soap**



Over many centuries and up until the present day, soap has been the primary means of hygiene and cleanliness. It has also found application in medicine and pharmacology for its healing and antiseptic properties.

Though times may have changed and liquid soaps have invaded bathrooms, traditional olive soap, containing vitamins A and E, still has the benefit of having passed the test of time with its pure and natural ingredients and proven benefits to healing, conditioning and protecting your skin. It is an environmentally friendly, biodegradable product with numerous ecological advantages in both production and use.



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In particular, pure green olive soap is widely considered to be the most natural skin cleanser with its inherent ability to unblock pores by effectively removing dirt, oily substances and dead cells whilst retaining moisture and elasticity. It is thought to help repair free radical damage caused by sun exposure, diet and pollution. These soaps penetrate the skin to add softness, and the use of olive oil soap on skin may benefit such skin conditions as psoriasis and eczema. Olive oil soap helps skin retain moisture, leading to healthy younger looking skin. Skin and hair cleansed with olive oil soap retains resilience, suppleness and brightness.

The "PATOUNIS Soap Works" has a family history that spans over 150 years, and Apostolos, a fifth generation 'Patounis', still makes their handcrafted soap using exactly the same traditional methods that the family have employed for what is now well over one and a half centuries. The Corfu plant, built in 1891 and located in the centre of Corfu town, to this day preserves and utilizes the original tools and equipment for their unique and pure handmade olive soap. The business continues to operate as a living and working museum that keeps alive an extraordinary and ancient local tradition.

The following soaps are handmade and set in traditional molds, hand cut, individually stamped for authenticity, dried and packaged at the soap works in Corfu town:

- **Pure Olive Oil Soap** – This is a 100 % pure virgin olive oil that has limited lathering but is renowned for its mild action and care for sensitive skin.
- **Green Olive Soap** – A greatly sought after natural soap that's made of olive pomace oil, an extraction from the skin and pit of the olive which contains chlorophyll (a green pigment, present in all green plants and responsible for the absorption of light to provide energy for photosynthesis). Green olive soap is famous throughout the world for its disinfecting properties, as a blood detoxifier and for a wide range of healing and cleansing applications.

All of the Patounis soaps are made using traditional methods and only the highest quality locally sourced raw materials; pure olive oil, soda (a natural mineral), sea salt and water. The production process takes 4-5 months, and each bar is hand cut, stamped and dried. There is a limited production each year and you may visit the factory to experience how it is made and see how much attention goes into each bar, and find out why pure handmade olive soap has earned its place as one of the finest soaps in the world.

## **T**

### **TAP WATER**

Although the water is clean and clear we advise you to drink either from our 'on tap' **filtered water in the main kitchen or bottled water** whilst here in Corfu. It is fine to use tap water for brushing your teeth or to boil it for hot drinks.

### **TAXIS & TRANSFERS**

If not using Dina's 8-seater, the local 24hr taxi service is in Acharavi. They can be reached on 00 30 26630 32400. Ask us and we can book a taxi for you. If you need a taxi transfer to, or from, the airport we would recommend Dina organizes this, or we recommend another taxi company as they are a licensed firm, have a fixed price for transfers although they only have 4 passenger capacity.

### **TELEPHONE**

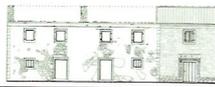
There is no landline phone service in room at present but most mobile phone networks work well from the village. There is also the free wi-fi service we provide if you wish to Skype or email from the suite. If you wish to make a local call ask in one of the tavernas but they may make a small charge.

### **TIPPING**

Usually a 10% tip or a small gratuity is acceptable for waiters, bar staff, housemaids and taxi drivers etc., but it's up to you!

### **TOILETRIES**

We provide complimentary Gilchrist and Soames 'Bee Kind' soap and toiletries in the bathrooms on arrival. Any other toiletries that you may need are available from the supermarket. If you've forgotten something like a toothbrush etc. (we all do it sometimes) then just ask and we'll do our best to help out.



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### **TOILETS | TOILET PAPER**

The golden rule in Corfu and in particular in Old Perithia is, **NO PAPER IN THE TOILETS** (nor sanitary items)! Please use the pedal bins and bags provided.

In the past in Old Perithia there were no toilets indoors and villagers used to 'take a walk'. Interestingly to this day many of the old houses, being built on rock, still have the same problem (you'll be pleased to know that we don't), and we like to keep the local environment clean and eco-friendly so please put any toilet paper, tissues, make up wipes, tampons etc. in the bin provided. Thank you from the heart of our bottoms.

### **TORTOISES**

These are still fairly common and you may see one or two in or around the village.

### **TOWELS**

Bath and hand towels are provided for each guest. There are towel rails provided in the bathrooms on which to hang them and they're changed once during the week. We kindly request that you do not take room towels to the beach, any lost towels will be deducted from your deposit.

### **TRANSFER**

If you fancy getting straight to us without the hassle of driving, then Dina can book an 8-seater transfer for you from the airport to Old Perithia. It costs between €150-160 including a tip. We advise to pre-book it well ahead of your stay.

### **TV**

Each suite has a flat screen tv with remote control. If you're unsure how to use it please ask, and also let us know if the remote control batteries give up. Please consider other guests and not have the tv volume too loud between 11pm and 8.30am, so everyone who wants a good night's sleep can get one.

### **INTERNET DOWNLOADS**

Although we managed to get wifi in the village, the signal strength is limited, so for those of you wishing to download movies or tv programmes we regret that it could take ages, or not at all.

## **U**

### **UMBRELLAS**

If you are stuck for an umbrella just ask and we'll be happy to lend you one in case of an unexpected (or expected) downpour.

### **USEFUL NUMBERS**

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Police              | 100   |
| Fire                | 199   |
| Ambulance           | 166   |
| Local Doctor        | 69326 45430 or 26630 63322 Dr. Yianis Giatrakos in Acharavi |
| Local Dentist       | 69369 83060 Spiros Peveratos in Acharavi                    |
| Hospital            | 26610 - 45811, 39428, 39403                                 |
| Roadside Assistance | 104   |
| Directory Enquiries | 11880   |

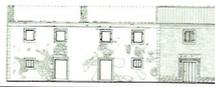
## **V**

### **VISITORS**

Visitors are of course most welcome at The Merchant's House but not those wishing to stay at the house. The suites are only provided for the number of guests that are originally booked to stay.

### **VOLTAGE**

The voltage is 220V, this is the same throughout the rest of Greece and a round two-pin plug is required. If a power cut occurs after a storm, the electricity is usually restored quite quickly. A rechargeable torch can be found in each room for use in emergency, or during a power cut. Please replace it on the charger when you've finished with it.



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### W

#### **WALKS & WALKING AROUND OLD PERITHIA**

Apart from the Old Perithia Guide, there are a number of books on walks and trails around the whole island. On our website we provide you with a few walks around Old Perithia that we think you might enjoy. Old Perithia captures the essence of Spring, so one of the best times to walk is from April to June, and after the heat of the summer from mid September and through October.

Of all the walking guides written for the island, 'The Corfu Trail' is perhaps the most famous, for more information ask us or go to: <http://www.thecorfutrail.com> for details.

We have also included a book of walks & maps in some of the rooms, but please return it. If you are planning to walk off the beaten track we strongly recommend boots and long trousers.

#### **WASPS**

There are quite a few wasps about the place because there are many fruit trees and flowers in Old Perithia. They are also attracted by sweet drinks, desserts, ice creams and other 'waspish delights' you may find in a taverna.

But you are in no more danger from a wasp than in any other place – just be aware, and 'shake' serviette's etc. to be sure, particularly when you're eating outside.

Another wasp you may see is the more flat looking Wasp Beetle. It's about 1cm in length and although it's harmless, it mimics the appearance and movements of a wasp to protect itself against predators. It likes the abundance of flowers. You may also spot a hornet, again, they are not particularly aggressive except when defending the nest and they tend not to bother you, just stay calm, or steer clear of them.

#### **WASHING & LAUNDRY | DRYING SWIMMING TOWELS**

There is a simple drying line in each bathroom or please dry them discretely outside. In Acharavi, there's a small laundry and dry cleaners if you have any basics that need doing.

#### **WATER**

The water is clean but we still recommend that you only drink our filtered tap water from the main kitchen or bottled water, which is available everywhere on the island, and at the village tavernas if you run out unexpectedly. There is also a natural spring in the village, a short walk away from The Merchant's House but we'd not recommend trying it as it seldom gets checked over. Loss of mains water supply rarely, if ever, happens. If it does it will be restored very quickly. NB. In your bathroom, do not use the loo or sink when your partner is showering or they may be scalded.

#### **WEATHER**

Corfu has a Mediterranean climate, with mild winters and temperate summers. The island gets a lot of rain in spring and autumn, so it is very green, much more so than other Greek islands. The rain tends to stop at the beginning of May and doesn't start again until October, so the summer season is fairly free of rain, although occasionally. You might still be in for a brief thunderstorm or a sudden downpour around September. If you are stuck for an umbrella we'll be happy to lend you one. Torches are in the room if you need one too.

#### **WELL**

The water in the well in the private garden is clean and used to water the garden and the flowers - but please note: it is not drinking water!

#### **WI-FI**

If you have a computer with you then we provide a free wi-fi service in all of the rooms (or as a back up in at The Old Perithia taverna, or in New Perithia at the post office). Please ask us for the current password. Regrettably the signal strength isn't enough for movie or tv downloading.

#### **X, Y, Zzz's**

Old Perithia provides one of the most peaceful and best loved settings for ensuring a restful stay on the island, in a traditional and protected village amidst beautiful surroundings. Added to which we have Cocomat mattresses, summer sheets when it's hot and duvets when it's cold, and ecological pillows, ensuring you get a perfect night's sleep at the end of each and every day - happy dreams!

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#### **A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS**

Please let us know how you enjoyed your stay or, if you have any comments or useful suggestions. For every guest comment we receive we will give 1 euro to 'The Merchant's House Foundation' supporting restoration and improvements in the village.